

REMARKS**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-29 are canceled. New claims 30-33 are added. The new claims relate to embodiments of the invention described, for example, at pages 23-29 of the application. No new matter is added.

Prior Art Rejection

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The original claims were rejected as being anticipated by Yamazaki (U.S. 2003-0139207). The new claims are patentably distinguished over Yamazaki.

According to the new claims, a server defines a group of client computers and assigns a power shift time period to each client computer group based on power load information received from a power company. The server then sends power source information to the client computer group. The power source information includes first information representing which of an external power source (e.g. electricity from the power company) and a secondary power source (e.g. battery) is to be used by the group of client computers, and second information representing a time when the external power source or secondary power source is to be used by the group of client computers.

At the client computer side, the client computers in a client computer group can be controlled to use the external power source or the secondary power source. The client computers can switch between sources at the same time, or at different times, determined with respect to the second information provided by the server. In this manner, client computers can shift between external and secondary power in a predetermined manner that can be chosen to avoid an abrupt change in demand on either power source.

The Yamazaki reference only discloses that the computer receives information which represents which of a built-in battery and an external power supply is used, and determines the built-in battery or the external power supply based on the received information. Yamazaki does not disclose using power load information sent from a power company, defining groups of client computers, determining a power shift time period for a group of client computers, or sending power source information to the group of client computers.

Yamazaki similarly does not disclose anything relating to control performed by client computers in the manner claimed.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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